



Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.




REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ended the 31st December, 1905.





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To the Members of the Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I now present to your notice my Annual Report for 1905 dealing with the Sanitary State of the District, the Public Health, any other matters relating thereto, and the Vital Statistics.

The Physical Features of the district were dealt with in my 1903 Report.

House Accommodation.—At Midsummer there were 17 more houses occupied than at the same period of 1904, hence house accommodation and population are increasing. There is however a tendency towards overcrowding in certain parts, and bye-laws fixing definite minimum standards of air space are required.

In this connection I would draw to your notice that in accordance with a resolution passed by the County Council on August 4th, 1904, the Property and Sanitation Committee instructed the County Medical Officer to enquire into and report upon overcrowding and consequent insanitary dwellings in the county. The Report was duly made and adopted and presented to the Council, in November, 1905. The following is a brief extract from this Report and corrected by me in certain particulars.

Table showing (1) Number of One-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than (a) two persons, (b) four persons; (2) Number of Two-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than four persons; (3) Number of Three-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than six persons.

	1891	1901	Increase 1891-1901	Decrease 1891-1901
1 a One-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than 2 persons ...	45	21	...	24
b One-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than 4 persons ...	32	13	...	19
2 Two-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than 4 persons ...	47	46	...	1
3 Three-Roomed Tenements occupied by more than 6 persons ...	15	17	2	...

Overcrowding of Houses on Land.—In Watt's Lane two houses are built back to side with houses in Sea View.

Obstructive Buildings.—SEA VIEW. These houses face the sea but their back premises are only separated from houses facing Front Street by a narrow passage, which does not afford a cart entrance. These houses are also built up against those in Watt's Lane on the south.

WATT'S LANE. Facing the houses in Watt's Lane is a large workshop, the latter acting as an obstructive building to the former on this (the south) side, Sea View acting in the same manner on the north side.

The undermentioned houses have no through ventilation, in some cases owing to obstructive buildings :—

Two houses in Sea View.

Two in Front Street.

One in the Barracks.

Five in Robinson Square.

One in Henderson's Buildings.

Twenty-one in Downie's Buildings.

Five in Burnside.

Six in Lawson's Buildings.

Six in Store Yard.

Insanitary Dwellings.—VERNON PLACE. A most insanitary privy ashpit is provided for three families and is built on to a house.

SEA VIEW. The contents of two privy ashpits are wheeled out through a narrow covered passage, over which was a room in a dwelling house.

FRONT STREET. An ashpit built on to a shop.

HENDERSON'S BUILDINGS. One large uncovered privy ashpit, receiving roof water, is provided for three families. This ashpit was reported to you as a nuisance in my former annual reports.

PROSPECT PLACE. Five houses are unprovided with either privies or ashpits, and the house refuse is thrown on to the moor. The yards are unpaved and dirty. Two ashpits at this place are most insanitary, being leaky and uncovered and receiving roof water from adjoining buildings.

Sewerage and Disposal of Refuse.—The vast majority of the houses have no water closets, so the drainage and sewerage of the district are practically confined to the removal of household slop water. The untreated sewage being discharged into the sea.

The privies communicate with the ashpits with the exception of a few cases in which the box system obtains.

The scavenging of the privy ashpits has not been done satisfactorily during 1905. I have several times had cause to complain to you and similar complaints by residents and visitors are frequent. I believe no improvement can occur under the present contract system, and believe the only satisfactory solutions are either for the Council to undertake the work or to obtain a sufficient water supply and abolish the privy ashpit altogether.

Water Supply.—This is still in the same unsatisfactory and primitive state. Three wells having to supply nearly 3000 people. The water is constantly liable to contamination and specific infection.

The want of a water supply is paralysing all attempts to improve sanitation to any marked extent, and is spoiling the reputation of Newbiggin as a summer health resort.

The **Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, &c.**, have been kept in as sanitary a state as their, in many instances, defective construction and lack of water for flushing and cleaning purposes permit.

Factory and Workshops' Acts, 1901.—There is still no register kept. One factory and seven or eight workshops exist in the district. These have been inspected in the course of the ordinary inspections of the district, and in the case of one bakehouse, the defect in ventilation reported in 1904 has been remedied.

Section 22, Public Health Acts (Amendments), 1890, is not in force in this district.

There are no common lodging houses.

Nuisances from overfilled ashpits, etc., have been dealt with during the year. The only nuisance reported and not remedied in 1905 being that of overcrowding at Westcroft House. No legal action in respect to nuisances has been required during the year.

Bye-laws are now in course of preparation and need no further mention here.

The Chief Industries are Coal-mining and Fishing, both apparently healthy occupations.

The Methods of dealing with Infectious Disease were similar to those adopted in previous years. In certain cases, to avoid menacing the public health, I have found it necessary to order the destruction of infected articles which it would have been impossible to efficiently disinfect, your Council having, in common with many others, no steam disinfectors, there being only three in the whole county.

Inspections of the District have been made monthly by both the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and the results reported to you. Minor insanitary conditions have been pointed out to those concerned and advice given as to their abolishment.

The Improvements made in 1905 are as follows:—

Eight houses built in Buteland Terrace, with constant supply of water laid in by Milburn Estates Co., Ltd.

Monck House and Newbiggin House partly rebuilt with additions and converted into two houses each.

The High Street road formed and whinstone covering rolled in for the first time with steam roller.

A road made to back of West House and Wansbeck Cottage, obviating the necessity for carrying ashes, etc., through the two houses.

At Marine Terrace: A portion of the street paved, etc.

The East End Well: The top has been made higher and space round the well laid with cement concrete.

The Station Well cleaned out and pump improved, and the cover and paving round the top relaid and cemented.

Projected Improvements for 1906:—

An efficient Water supply.

Improvements in the Scavenging.

Making the roads and footpaths, and lighting King and Queen Streets.

Lighting Marine Street, Moor View, and East View.

Disease Incidence.—Among non-notifiable diseases Phthisis and Respiratory diseases are prevalent in the district. Among notifiable diseases Scarlet Fever has been by far the most prevalent. There were 36 notifications and notwithstanding all efforts to isolate and disinfect, and temporary School closure, it was still occurring at the close of the year, and appears to have become endemic. This incidence of Scarlet Fever is higher than can be considered satisfactory, and I find that Newbiggin for the year 1904 showed, out of the 35 urban and rural districts in the county, the fifth highest zymotic disease incidence.

Vital Statistics.

My estimate of the population to the middle of 1905 is 2530.

There have been 87 Births and 44 Deaths, or excluding non-residents 41 Deaths.

The Birth Rate is 34·3.

The Death Rate is 17·3, and corrected Death Rate 16·2.

The Birth rate shows a decrease of 0·8.

The corrected Death rate, a decrease of 5·2 from that of 1904, which was the second highest in the county.

The Zymotic Death rate is 1·18, a decrease of 0·04.

The Infant Mortality rate is 160·9, an increase of 33.

The Phthisis Death rate is 1·9, an increase of 0·27.

The Infant Deaths were none from Zymotic diseases.

Ages at Death:—

Under 1 year	...	...	14
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	8
5 " " 15 "	...	...	3
15 " " 25 "	...	...	0
25 " " 65 "	...	...	12
65 years and upwards	...	...	4
			—
			41

Causes of Death.

Scarlet Fever, 1; Croup, 1; Diarrhœa, 2; Phthisis, 5; other Tuberculous diseases, 2; Cancer, 1; Bronchitis, 3; Pneumonia, 3; other Respiratory diseases, 2; Premature Birth, 1; Heart diseases, 3; Accidents, 2; Apoplexy, 3; Congenital Defects, 7; all other causes, 5.

VINCENT BURROW,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in District.				Deaths of resi- dents belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.			
		No.	Rate.*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	No.	Rate.*	No.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	13
1895	1731	74	42·7	14	189	35	20·2		
1896	1775	88	49·5	11	125	26	14·6		
1897	1822	75	41·1	14	185·3	41	22·5		
1898	1872	69	36·8	13	188·4	35	18·6		
1899	1925	77	40·0	12	155·8	33	17·1		
1900	1981	75	37·8	7	93·3	30	15·1		
1901	2032	84	41·3	21	250·0	39	19·1		
1902	2250	79	35·1	7	88·6	34	15·1		
1903	2400	88	36·6	15	170·5	33	13·7		
1904	2450	86	35·1	11	127·9	52	21·2		
Averages for years 1895 to 1904	2023·8	79	39·6	12·5	157·3	35	17·7		
1905†	2530	87	34·3	14	160·9	44	17·3	41	16·2

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated Population.

† In addition, about 500 Visitors in the Summer months.

Area in Acres, 337.

Total Population at all ages	...	2022	}	at Census of
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	440	}	1901.

